

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 04936 091607Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /022 W
-----126157 091634Z /47

P 082300Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2710

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 4936

FOR ARA/PAN TO PASS TO COL. LAWRENCE JACKLEY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PIN, PN
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM

REF: PANAMA 4676

1. THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE TECHNICAL TEAM DISCUSSIONS ON MILITARY COORDINATION (REFTEL):

A. LT. COL. ARMANDO ABEL CONTRERAS, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3 (OPERATIONS), NATIONAL GUARD GENERAL STAFF SINCE DEC. 1972. CONTRERAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS G-1 (PERSONNEL) AND AS CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS. HE ALSO COMMANDED THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF PANAMANIAN TROOPS ASSIGNED TO THE UN MIDEAST PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN 1973.

CONTRERAS ATTENDED THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE IN PANAMA CITY AND IS A 1956 GRADUATE OF THE NICARAGUAN MILITARY ACADEMY. HE HAS ATTENDED A VARIETY OF COURSES AT U.S. MILITARY SCHOOLS IN THE CANAL ZONE AND WAS A STUDENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY, WASHINGTON, D.C. IN 1964.

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U.S. OFFICERS WHO HAVE WORKED WITH CONTRERAS REGARD HIM AS INTELLIGENT AND FAIRLY COMPETENT. WHILE NOT OVERLY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE U.S., CONTRERAS HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR THE U.S. MILITARY. HE SEEKS THEIR ADVICE AND OFTEN EMULATES U.S. MILITARY PRACTICES WITHOUT FULLY UNDERSTANDING THEM.

STRONGLY NATIONALISTIC AND ANTI-COMMUNIST,
CONTRERAS WAS REPORTEDLY "TURNED OFF" BY THE REGI-
MENTATION HE SAW DURING HIS TRIP TO CUBA WITH GENERAL
TORRIJOS.

CONTRERAS IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN.
HE ENJOYS THE GOOD LIFE AND IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC GOLFER.
CONTRERAS SPEAKS FAIR ENGLISH; HIS COMPREHENSION IS
GOOD.

B. LT. MOISES DEL RIO C.. ASSISTANT G-3
(OPERATIONS), NATIONAL GUARD. DEL RIO IS A GRADUATE
OF THE PERUVIAN MILITARY ACADEMY. HE ENTERED THE
GUARD IN 1968 AND WAS PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT IN 1970.

U.S. MILITARY GROUP OFFICERS CHARACTERIZE
DEL RIO AS "ENTHUSIASTIC, HARD WORKING, AND AMBITIOUS--
A 'COMER'" HE REPORTEDLY HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE
WITH CONTRERAS, WHO USES HIM AS A PROJECT MANAGER.
DEL RIO IS PRO-U.S. AND SEEKS USMILGP ADVICE ON HIS
PROJECTS. HE IS A VALUABLE CHANNEL FOR INDIRECT
APPROACHES TO CONTRERAS.

DEL RIO IS MARRIED AND HAS CHILDREN. ATHLETICALLY
INCLINED, HE ENJOYS SCUBA DIVING. HIS ENGLISH IS LIMITED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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